

with red ribbon, to which he annexed his signature and seal. About nine o'clock in the evening wrapped up in his dressing-gown, and sitting in an easy-chair with a little table before him, the Emperor caused the signatures and seals of his three executors to be affixed to his Will and Codicils— Count Bertrand, Count Monlholon, and myself, also the Abbe Vignale, who was called for the same purpose.

The Emperor having thus, as he wished, put his affairs in order, employed himself for a long time in considering what our condition and employments would be on our return to Europe. He, conversed with his executors upon the course they would have to adopt upon their arrival in England and France in order that his ashes might not remain in exile at St. Helena. I extract in this place, from the verbal instructions that he gave, those which related to the King of Rome : "You will induce him to resume the name of Napoleon as soon as he shall have attained the age of discretion and can do it opportunely. If fortune should be propitious to him, and he should ascend the throne of France, it is the duty of my executors to call his attention to the debt of gratitude I owe to my old officers and soldiers, and to my faithful adherents. The recollection of me should form the glory of his life; you will do everything to encourage this feeling in him; you will direct his ideas to facts and events; you ought to find in the possession of Albe, Fain, Meneval, and Bourrieime ¹ many papers and documents of the highest interest to him. Unless fortune should restore France to my family I desire that my nephews and nieces should form marriages amongst themselves, and settle either in the Roman States,² in America, or in Switzerland, so that my blood should not mingle in the Courts of Kings. To the Empress Maria Louisa you will, either by letter or in a personal interview, express the esteem and high sentiments I entertain for her; recommend to her my son, whose only resource and chance of success is on her side. Make a collection of paintings, of books, and of medals such as can give to my son true ideas, and destroy those false ones which foreign policy has been able, no doubt,

¹ These four persons had been long employed in the private cabinet of the Emperor. Colonel Baron Bacler d'Albe, sometimes printed "Dalbe," had been the secretary in charge of all the maps, — an important post, bringing him into the most constant contact with Napoleon, especially during the campaigns. See Baron d'Odeleben's *Relation de la Campagne de 1813* (Paris, Plancher, 1817), p. 155, copied by Alison, chap. lxxviii. para. 45-47. Colonel Baron Fain had been the Archivist of the cabinet from February, 1800, to 1814. In his *Manuscripts* he afterwards published important accounts of the events of several of those years. Meneval had succeeded Bourrieime as secretary in 1802, and held that post till after the retreat from Moscow, when he was placed with the Empress Maria Louisa. The reference to Bmirrieuno after so many years of estrangement is curious. The reader will recollect the box of documents carefully buried by Bourrieime (vol. it pp. 172-173), and his subsequent denial of its existence in vol. iii. p. 253. See in *Du Casse*, tome x. pp. 262-259, a detailed account given by Bertrand to Joseph Bonaparte of how Napoleon wished his family to obtain a firm hold on Rome and Switzerland by a series of marriages, and his advice as to their proceedings. See also Bingham's *Marriages of the Bonapartes* (Longmans, 1881).